Known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-Ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes.

The project districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated. This is double that of the earlier programme.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners, and NGOs in the programme.

DOTS coverage is being rapidly expanded in the country. From 20 million coverage in 1998, about 700 million population have been covered at present. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2005 under the revised strategy.

Status of Health Interventions for Neglected Children

37. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on the status of Health Interventions for neglected children was held in new Delhi in the first week of May this year;

(b) if so, whether the Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi stressed that health care system for the disadvantaged was the need of the hour;

(c) whether Government have drawn out any national programme

for providing a standard health care system for a disadvantaged including the neglected children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A seminar on the status of health interventions for neglected children was organized by a voluntary organization "PRAYAS". The need to develop a system whereby both the Government sector and the voluntary organizations dedicate their services for the street children was discussed.

(c) and (d) there is a programme known as "Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme run by Department of Women and Child Development, aiming at holistic development of children (0-6 years) and pregnant and lactating mothers from disadvantaged sections. It provides integrated services comprising.

(i) supplementary nutrition,
(ii) immunization,
(iii) health check-up
(iv) referral services
(v) pre-school non-formal education and
(vi) nutrition & health education.

There is also a scheme known as "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" being operated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Under this Programme, a wide range of initiatives relating to street children including those relating to shelter, nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water, education, recreation facilities and protection against abuse and exploitation are being supported in all major cities of the country.

Malaria Cases in MP

38. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh topped the list of Malaria positive cases among the States during 1998 and 1999;